1. (Previously presented) A message broker for transmitting a message from a first client system to a second client system, the message broker comprising at least one message channel, a first channel adapter and a second channel adapter,

the first channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message from the first client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising content information and destination information,

read the destination information from the message, and send a push request to place the message in a message channel corresponding to the destination information,

the second channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message request from the second client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising source information

read the message request and identify a message channel corresponding to the source information,

send a pull request to the message channel, and

generate a response accordingly.

2. (Original) A message broker according to claim 1 wherein the second channel adapter is operable to generate a response comprising a time out response if no message is placed in the channel within a predetermined time period.

3. (Previously presented) A message broker according to claim 1 wherein, when a message is placed in the channel, the second channel adapter is operable to generate a response comprising at least the content information.

4. (Previously presented) A message broker according to claim 1 wherein the second channel adapter is operable to generate a response encoded in an Internet protocol format.

5. (Currently amended) A message broker according to claim 1 wherein the first channel adapter and the second channel adapter are each implemented by a servlet.

6. (Previously presented) A message broker according to claim 1 comprising an address information store wherein channel information corresponding to at least one of the destination information and source information is stored.

7. (Currently amended) A message broker according to [[any]] claim 1 comprising a bi-directional communication link, the message broker comprising two message channels, each channel comprising a first channel adapter and a second channel adapter, such that the message broker is operable to transmit messages from the first client to the second client system using one of the channels and from the second client system to the first client system using the other of said channels.

8. (Original) A message broker according to claim 7 wherein the first channel adapter of one of the channels and the second channel adapter of the other of the channels are provided by a common combined channel adapter module.

9. (Currently amended) A message broker according to [[any]] claim 1 wherein the message and the request are encoded in HTTP format.

10. (Original) A message broker according to claim 9 wherein the message comprises a HTTP POST request.

11. (Previously presented) A message broker according to claim 9 wherein the message request comprises a HTTP GET request.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A communication system according to claim 25 wherein the message is encoded in HTTP format and transmitted to the message broker using a HTTP POST request.

14. (Currently amended) A communication system according to claim 25 wherein the first client system comprises a firewall, wherein the message is permitted to pass through the firewall.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A communication system according to claim 26 wherein, where the response comprises a time out response, the receiver module is operable to generate an output comprising re-transmitting the message request to the message broker.

17. (Currently amended) A communication system according to claim 26, wherein [[where]] the response comprises a message, and the receiver module is operable to generate an output comprising the content information.

18. (Currently amended) A communication system according to claim 26 wherein the second client system comprises a firewall, wherein the message request and the response are permitted to pass through the firewall.

19. (Currently amended) A [[client]] communication system according to claim 18 wherein the message request and response are encoded using HTTP format and wherein the message request comprises an HTTP GET request.

20. (Previously presented) A communication system comprising a message broker according to claim 1 and at least one client system.

21. (Previously presented) A communication system according to claim 20 wherein the message broker and at least one client system are connected via the Internet.

22. (Previously presented) A method of transmitting messages from a first client system to a second client system comprising the steps of

receiving a message from the first client system encoded in an Internet protocol format and comprising content information and destination information corresponding to a message channel,

reading the destination information,

sending a push request to place the content information in a message channel corresponding to the destination information, receiving a message request from the second client system encoded in an Internet protocol format and comprising source information corresponding to the message channel,

reading the message request to identify the message channel corresponding to the source information,

sending a pull request to the message channel, and

generating a response accordingly.

23-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A communication system comprising a first client system and a message broker for transmitting a message from the first client system to a second client system,

the message broker comprising at least one message channel, a first channel adapter and a second channel adapter,

the first channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message from the first client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising content information and destination information,

read the destination information from the message, and send a push request to place the message in a message channel corresponding to the destination information,

the second channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message request from the second client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising source information

read the message request and identify a message channel corresponding to the source information,

send a pull request to the message channel, and

generate a response accordingly,

the first client system further comprising a transmission module operable to transmit the message from the first client system to the message broker, the transmission module being operable to

receive message information comprising content information and destination information corresponding to a message channel,

generate the message comprising the message information encoded in an Internet protocol format, and

transmit the message to the message broker for retrieval by the second client system from the message channel.

26. (Previously presented) A communication system comprising a message broker for transmitting a message from a first client system to a second client system, the communication system comprising a second client system,

the message broker comprising at least one message channel, a first channel adapter and a second channel adapter,

the first channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message from the first client system encoded in an Internet protocol and

comprising content information and destination information,

read the destination information from the message, and send a push request to place the message in a message channel corresponding to the destination information,

the second channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message request from the second client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising source information

read the message request and identify a message channel corresponding to the source information,

send a pull request to the message channel, and

generate a response accordingly,

the second client system comprising a receiver module operable to retrieve the message comprising content information from the message broker sent by the first client system, the receiving module being operable to;

receive a message request comprising source information corresponding to the message channel

generate a message request encoded in an Internet protocol format in accordance with the source information,

transmit the message request to the message broker,

receive the response from said message broker in accordance with the message request, and

generate an output.

27. (Previously presented) A communication system comprising a first client system, a second client system and a message broker for transmitting a message from the first client system to a second client system,

the message broker comprising at least one message channel, a first channel adapter and a second channel adapter,

the first channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message from the first client system encoded in an Internet protocol and comprising content information and destination information,

read the destination information from the message, and send a push request to place the message in a message channel corresponding to the destination information,

the second channel adapter being operable to;

receive a message request from the second client system encoded in an Internet protocol

and comprising source information

read the message request and identify a message channel corresponding to the source information,

send a pull request to the message channel, and

generate a response accordingly,

the first client system comprising a transmission module operable to transmit the message from the first client system to the message broker, the transmission module being operable to;

receive message information comprising content information and destination information corresponding to a message channel,

generate the message comprising the message information encoded in an Internet protocol format, and

transmit the message to a message broker for retrieval by the second client system from the message channel,

the second client system comprising a receiver module operable to retrieve the message comprising content information from the message broker sent by the first client system, the receiving module being operable to;

receive a message request comprising source information corresponding to the message channel

generate a message request encoded in an Internet protocol format in accordance with the source information,

transmit the message request to the message broker,

receive the response from said message broker in accordance with the message request, and

generate an output.